



Product stewardship for batteries and electronic waste

Simplify recycling for consumers and hold manufacturers accountable for the environmental impact of their products.

RECOMMENDATION

Establish a producer responsibility organization (PRO), funded by manufacturers, that provides convenient, free recycling of electronic waste and batteries to consumers statewide.

This product stewardship program will cover the full cost of a comprehensive electronic waste and battery recycling effort, including establishing drop-off locations and covering costs of collection, transportation, recycling, and education. Manufacturers of applicable electronic products that are sold in Minnesota would be required to participate in the PRO.

Challenge

Collecting and recycling batteries and electronic waste is costly, and consumers often do not know how or where to dispose of waste. Batteries also pose fire risks for haulers, county solid waste managers, and others in the recycling chain. Current state law does not cover certain battery types.

Why it's important

This recommendation aims to save Minnesota money and protect the environment by reducing e-waste generation, sustainably managing valuable materials at end-of-life, and recycling them into new products. It also extends existing law to include more battery types, increases collection, and holds manufacturers accountable for their products' lifecycle impacts and end-of-life costs.

Who is impacted

Counties and other local government units will see relief from some of the costs associated with recycling and managing electronic waste and batteries. Consumers will also see simpler and more convenient options for disposing of these materials in their communities.



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